

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated January 10, 2006. By this Response, claims 1 and 28 are amended, and new claims 30-31 are added. Therefore, claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, 28, and 30-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Bodnar et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,143,945 ("*Bodnar*"). Applicants believe all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

I. Claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 are not anticipated by *Bodnar*.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-19, 22-24, 26, and 28 as being anticipated by *Bodnar*. Applicants submit that the claims are not anticipated by *Bodnar* because *Bodnar* fails to disclose each and every limitation of these claims.

Claims 1 and 28 are independent claims with claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26 depending on claim 1. Claims 1 and 28 recite "wherein the urethane catalyst is used in an amount ranging from 0.1 to 3.5% by weight based on the isocyanate-reactive component." Nothing in *Bodnar* discloses wherein the urethane catalyst is used in an amount ranging from 0.1 to 3.5% by weight based on the isocyanate-reactive component. For instance, *Bodnar* discloses urethane catalysts but does not disclose the amount ranging from 0.1 to 3.5% by weight based on the isocyanate-reactive component. (*Bodnar*, col. 9, lns. 41-45)

In view of the recitations in claims 1 and 28 that are not disclosed by *Bodnar*, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejections and allow these claims. Applicants further request that the Examiner also withdraw the § 102 rejections of dependent claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26, since it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 28 are

allowable. Dependent claims 2-19, 22-24, and 26 must *a fortiori* also be allowable, since they carry with them all the limitations of the independent claims to which they ultimately refer.

II. New Claims 30-31 are allowable.

By this Response, Applicants have added new claims 30 and 31. New claim 30 is an independent claim upon which claim 31 depends. New claim 30 recites "wherein the blowing agent consists of water." Nothing in the cited art discloses wherein the blowing agent consists of water. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that new claims 30 and 31 are allowable.

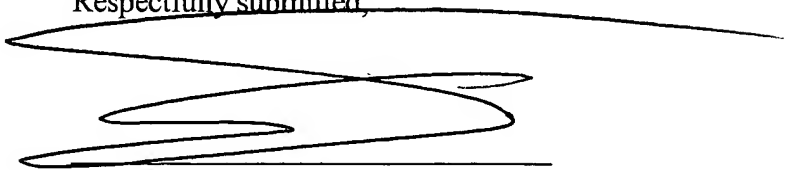
III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, allowance of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,



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